United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Region
600 Harrison Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, California 94107-1372

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H2215(WR-RH)

FEB 25 1993

February 18, 1993

COPY

Mrs. Ora Kay Peterson
Executive Director
Mineral King Preservation Society
2936 S. West Street
Visalia, California 93277

Dear Mrs. Peterson:

Since 1987 the Mineral King Preservation Society has been involved in an effort to determine the potential significance of the Mineral King special use permit cabin community under the criteria established by the National Historic Preservation Act for the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service's staff at Sequoia National Park has worked with the Society in this effort.

While this effort has continued, there has been no decision on several issues which must eventually be addressed. These have included resolution of future use of a number of cabins whose special use permits have expired.

Last summer, as a part of a regularly scheduled review of park operations at Sequoia National Park, the Western Region Cultural Resources staff recommended that the time had come to resolve this issue by seeking a formal Determination of Eligibility. This decision was based on the fact that the information developed during more than five years of research by your organization is now available to help resolve the issue.

The park staff pointed out that the Society is continuing to seek funding to support more work on this project, and that grant proposals were submitted to the Sequoia Natural History Association. The Association's Board did not elect to fund the proposed project.

Considering these facts, the Regional Cultural Resources staff of this office has recommended that we proceed to obtain a formal Determination of Eligibility from the Office of the National Register. We intend to finalize the determination package no later than April 1, 1993. The package will contain the Society's 1990 report entitled "Mineral King Historic District, Volume 1, Contextual History and Description"; the "Historic Resources Inventory" forms compiled for each of the cabins by the MKPS; and other materials as the Society may wish to submit for inclusion.

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The package will also include the recommendation of the National Park Service regarding the determination. This recommendation will not support nomination of the cabin community to the National Register. This conclusion is based on the Service's conclusions that the cabins do not represent a unique architectural or historical expression and that they have been significantly modified over time.

We trust that the Society will understand that the time has come to resolve this issue, and we encourage the Society to submit such materials as it may wish in support of its position to the above address, Attention: Division of Park Historic Preservation.

We appreciate the support and interest the Society has demonstrated regarding the resources of Sequoia National Park.

Sincerely,

Stanley T. Albright
Regional Director

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March 31, 1993

Mr. Stanley T. Albright
Regional Director
National Park Service
Western Region
600 Harrison Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, California 94107-1372

RE: H2215(WR-RH)

Dear Mr. Albright:

This correspondence should clarify the position of the Mineral King Preservation Society (MKPS) concerning your letter dated February 18, 1993. Thank you for the opportunity to furnish input relative to the cultural resources of the Mineral King district, Sequoia National Park.

As correctly stated, since 1987 MKPS has been involved "in an effort to determine the potential significance of the Mineral King special use permit cabin community under the criteria established by the National Historic Preservation Act for the NRHP." Furthermore, the NPS staff at Ash Mountain "has worked with the Society in this effort." Additionally, staff at both the Western Region of the NPS and the Office of Historic Preservation (Sacramento) have been a part of this process.

In 1991, after four years of archival and field research, and a series of meetings with staff from both the OHP and NPS, a plan was developed by MKPS to proceed with a comprehensive nomination. William Tweed, Management Assistant, and Ellen Seeley, Cultural Resources Officer, agreed that MKPS should package contextual and site specific Mineral King data in a Multiple Property Registration Form (NPS 10-900-b).

NPS staff assured MKPS that the OHP would be given adequate opportunity to make a "preliminary determination of eligibility" as part of the multiple properties process. This was reaffirmed by the fact that a portion of the proposed historic district included private land.

In general, there was a consensus to proceed with the multiple properties documentation built upon the following premises:

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(1) Several property types within the Mineral King Historic District are clearly of National Register quality. Among these are mining sites, early trails, the Mineral King Road, and archaeological resources;

(2) Some or all of the Mineral King cabins are contextually related and form a historical continuum; and

(3) The Mineral King Valley is a rare example of California historic landscape.

To date, the MKPS effort has been structured so as to assemble information necessary to document the above premises. In July 1992, MKPS entered into a contract with a cultural resources consulting team to complete a draft of the NPS Form 10-900-b.

In January, project maps and a summary of the current research were presented to the MKPS Board of Directors. Substantial portions of the text will be available by May 1, 1993.

As your letter stated, "We intend to finalize the determination package no later than April 1, 1993. The package will contain the Society's 1990 report entitled Mineral King Historic District, Volume 1, Contextual History and Description; the Historic Resources Inventory forms compiled for each of the cabins by the MKPS; and other materials as the Society may wish to submit for inclusion."

The MKPS materials mentioned above are draft copies for NPS review and comment only, and were never intended for use in seeking a "formal Determination of Eligibility." To submit this incomplete package, without proper context, would be prejudicial and counterproductive. **The use of MKPS materials without the prior authorization of the Board of Directors is prohibited.**

These documents are being revised under the present MKPS contract. The updated versions will be submitted as part of the MKPS multiple properties documentation for NPS review in 1993.

In reference to the "grant proposals" which were submitted to Sequoia Natural History Association your letter stated: "The Association's Board did not elect to fund the proposed project." This is a misinterpretation of the facts.

The MKPS grant request was never considered as an agenda item of the SNHA Board because it lacked the approval of Superintendent Ritter. Be advised that the completion of the multiple

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properties documentation of the Mineral King district was never dependent upon receiving any SNHA or NPS funding. The proposal for a matching grant on the current MKPS contract was offered in a cooperative spirit to furnish Sequoia National Park with the opportunity to be a partner in the process. This has been the intention of MKPS from the outset.

In consideration of these facts, it is hereby requested that you direct staff to refrain from making any recommendation at the present time. It is our hope that you continue to "appreciate the support and interest the Society has demonstrated regarding the resources of Sequoia National Park." We look forward to continuing our mutual relationship committed to the conservation of the resources of Sequoia National Park.

Sincerely,

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Ora Kay Peterson
Executive Director

cc: Office of Historic Preservation
Mr. Calvin Dooley, U.S. Congressman 20th District
Mr. Thomas Ritter, Superintendent--Sequoia National Park

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INVOICE

ELLIOTT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
P.O. Box 728
Three Rivers, CA 93271

Date: April 1, 1993 No. 93-001-MISC

To: Mineral King Preservation Society
2936 S. West Street
Visalia, CA 93277

Description

MKPS LETTER to NPS (Western Region)

RE: MPD Project

For: Process Letter/negotiations
March 1993

..... $ 250.00

(Includes phone, copies, postage)

TOTAL DUE..... $ 250.00

*Please note: this bill is not included under the current MPD contract amount. The next MPD billing will be for March/April 1993. Thanks.

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Kings Canyon National Park
Sequoia National Park
Three Rivers, California 93271-9700

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A4415 (WR-OR)

April 23, 1993

Mrs. Ora Kay Peterson
Executive Director
Mineral King Preservation Society
2936 South West Street
Visalia, California 93277

Dear Mrs. Peterson:

We have reviewed the contents of your letter to Regional Director Albright of March 31 with Regional Office staff, and they have asked us to contact you regarding what to do next with the issue of determining the eligibility of the special use permit cabins in the Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park.

Although we have been working together on this issue for nearly six years, your letter requests that additional unspecified amounts of time will be necessary to determine a full understanding of the issues at hand.

Both the Regional Office and the Park continue to feel that a timely resolution of the issue is necessary. We propose that the best way to proceed is a meeting as soon as possible. The purpose of this meeting would be to develop a plan for how we are going to resolve this issue.

It is my hope that the Mineral King Preservation Society would be represented at the meeting by several key persons, including John Elliot, Jim Barton, and yourself.

If this proposal is acceptable, please contact Vera Brochini of my staff at (209) 565-3101; with your help she will schedule a meeting date.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Ruesch

Scott M. Ruesch
Acting Superintendent

5/6/93
Dear Jean,
Enclosed some correspondence with NPS. They could so easily have issued MICPS a temporary permit for Cam & Apart (2) Pinkham Cabin. So Bitter went to Western Region, Now it's back at ash mt. Meeting set for May 12? Ora Kay

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